



ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION AGENDA

3RD FLOOR CONFERENCE MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23,
ROOM 2026

6:00 PM

1. Call to Order
2. Oath of Office
3. Approval of the February 23, 2026 Agenda
4. Approval of the October 27, 2025 Minutes
5. Routine Business
 - A. Election of Officers
 - B. Set Meeting Dates and Times for 2026
 - C. 2026 Annual Workplan
 - D. Interim Ordinance
 - E. Wyland Foundation National Mayor's Water Conservation Challenge 2026
6. Items for Discussion
 - A. Outreach Opportunities Update
 - B. ReLeaf Grant Update
 - C. Clean Energy Resource Team (CERTs) Grant Update
7. Commissioners Reports and Updates
8. Adjournment



Environmental Commission Memorandum

TO: Environmental Commission
THROUGH:
FROM:
MEETING DATE: February 23, 2026
SUBJECT: Oath of Office

Background:

Recommendation:

Attachments:



Environmental Commission Memorandum

TO: Environmental Commission
THROUGH:
FROM:
MEETING DATE: February 23, 2026
SUBJECT: Approval of the February 23, 2026 Agenda

Background:

Recommendation:

Attachments:



ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES

3RD FLOOR CONFERENCE
ROOM

MONDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2025

6:00 PM

Call to Order

The Environmental Commission meeting was called to order by Chair Teresa DeMars at 6:02 PM. Commissioners in attendance include Teresa DeMars, Ann Poe, Kevin Theis, and Yvette Marthaler. Commissioners absent include Richard Huston, and Lee Nordmeyer. Also in attendance include David Wanberg – Economic and Development Director, and Adam King – Environmental and Water Resource Coordinator. Each commissioner and staff introduced themselves.

Approval of the Monday, October 27, 2025, Agenda

Motion by Marthaler, seconded by Poe to amend the agenda to include the addition of the Monday, December 22, 2025 meeting discussion and carried unanimously.

Motion by Theis, seconded by Poe to approve the agenda as amended and carried unanimously.

Approval of the Monday, September 22, 2025, Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes

King presented the Monday, September 22, 2025 Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes. The Commissioners discussed the minutes.

Motion by Poe, seconded by Theis to approve the Monday, September 22, 2025 Environmental Commission Meeting minutes as presented and carried unanimously.

Items for Discussion / Action

Tree Grant Updates

King provided an update to the commissioners on the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources ReLeaf Grant, including that the City Council approved authorization to apply for the grant and accept the grant if received. King informed the commissioners that River Bend Nature Center has approached him to partner on the education and outreach portion of the grant. The commissioners discussed the grant opportunity.

Moratorium Discussion

King presented information on what other entities have done for their moratoriums, including an example resolution from Kootenai County, Idaho. King also presented Minnesota State Statute 462.355 that provides entities in Minnesota the ability to adopt an interim ordinance that may regulate, restrict, or prohibit any use, development or subdivision within the jurisdiction or a portion thereof for a period not to exceed one year from the date it is effective. Wanberg provided an update of the current pending litigation against the city, and informed the commission that the city's attorneys have informed them that it would be best to avoid a moratorium until the litigation is settled. The commissioners discussed the moratorium and wanting to accept public comments.

Motion by Theis, seconded by DeMars to table the discussion until the January 2026 meeting. The commissioners discussed the motion. Aye – Theis; Nay – DeMars, Poe, Marthaler. The motion failed.

Outreach Opportunities

King provided an update on the Faribault Fall Festival, reporting that he was joined by Commissioner Nordmeyer and Excel Energy staff in the booth, and they were able to give away many lightbulbs. Nine sign-ups for energy squad visits were received. The next outreach opportunity will be the Faribault Winter Fest Christmas Market to be held on Saturday, December 06, 2025 at the Faribault American Legion. Commissioners Theis and DeMars indicated they could attend and staff a booth on Saturday, December 06, 2025. King stated that he would sign the Environmental Commission up for a booth if there is one available, and partner with Excel Energy, hand out lightbulbs, get sign-ups for Energy Squad visits, and hand out information recruiting for the Environmental Commission.

Discussion of the Monday, December 22, 2025 Meeting

Three commissioners have reported that they will not be available for the Monday, December 22, 2025 meeting. With three commissioners absent, there would not be a quorum. The Commissioners discussed the meeting and decided to cancel the meeting due to a lack of quorum.

Commissioner Reports and Updates

The commissioners provided reports and updates to projects they are working on. Ann Poe reported planting a new tree with Partners for Pollinators, Teresa DeMars reported that the Cannon River Watershed Joint Powers Board is partnering with the University of Minnesota Extension on “Healthy Soils: Why Organic Matter Matters” a virtual learning series, Kevin Theis did not provide a report, and Yvette Marthaler did not provide a report.

Adjournment

Motion by Poe, seconded by Marthaler, to adjourn the Environmental Commission meeting and carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:19 PM.

Approved:	Date:	Recorder:
	02/23/2026	Adam King, Environmental and Water Resources Coordinator



Environmental Commission Memorandum

TO: Environmental Commission
THROUGH: David Wanberg, Community & Economic Development Director
FROM: Adam King, Environmental and Water Resources Coordinator
MEETING DATE: February 23, 2026
SUBJECT: Election of Officers

Background:

The 2026 Environmental Commission Commissioner Handbook states the Environmental Commission shall elect a Chair and a Vice-Chair from its appointed members and shall serve a one-year term.

The Chair shall preside over the meetings, including but not limited to calling the meetings to order, introducing items for discussion, entertaining motions, and calling votes, ensuring meeting protocols are followed, maintaining meeting decorum and order, encouraging participation by all commissioners, and coordinating with city staff as needed on issues such as upcoming agendas, attendance of commissioners, and any other issues affecting the Environmental Commission.

The Vice-Chair shall fulfill the responsibilities of the Chair when the chair is unable to do so.

Previous Chair and Vice-Chairs include:

2025 – Chair: Teresa DeMars;	Vice-Chair: Lee Nordmeyer
2024 – Chair: Teresa DeMars;	Vice-Chair: Debbie Graham
2023 – Chair: Sonny Wasilowski;	Vice-Chair: Martha Brown
2022 – Chair: Richard Huston;	Vice-Chair: Sonny Wasilowski
2021 – Chair: Roger Steinkamp;	Vice-Chair: Dan Behrens
2020 – Chair: Roger Steinkamp;	Vice-Chair: Dan Behrens

Recommendation:

Elect a Chair and Vice-Chair from the appointed members to serve in 2026.

Attachments:



Environmental Commission Memorandum

TO: Environmental Commission
THROUGH: David Wanberg, Community & Economic Development Director
FROM: Adam King, Environmental and Water Resources Coordinator
MEETING DATE: February 23, 2026
SUBJECT: Set Meeting Dates and Times for 2026

Background:

The City of Faribault's Environmental Commission meets monthly on the 4th Monday of the month at 6:00 PM at the Faribault City Hall.

With new commissioners starting in 2026, and schedules continually changing, the Environmental Commission should set meeting dates, times, and locations for 2026.

Recommendation:

Set meeting dates, times, and locations for 2026.

Attachments:



Environmental Commission Memorandum

TO: Environmental Commission
THROUGH: David Wanberg, Community & Economic Development Director
FROM: Adam King, Environmental and Water Resources Coordinator
MEETING DATE: February 23, 2026
SUBJECT: 2026 Annual Workplan

Background:

The Environmental Commissioner Handbook, Sec. 9-5 states that the Environmental Commission shall create, for council review, an annual work plan outlining planned projects and tasks for the year. This includes (a) environmental review of projects that involve an Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW), or Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), (b) creation and participation of plans, and (c) other duties as assigned by the City Council including advising the City Council on other environmental matters such as environmental ordinances and promoting public awareness and understanding of environmental matters affecting the city.

Past annual workplans have included:

- Maintain past projects (prairie plantings along Crockers Creek from 7th St. N.W. to MN 60 – enlisting community volunteer group to assist with maintenance)
- Control invasive plants within the city (Glossy Buckthorn, Wild Parsnip, Thistle)
- Promote and implement environmental restorations and pollinator habitat
 1. Implement a native buffer on City property along the Cannon River Reservoir above the Woolen Mill Dam
- Promote and replace ash trees within the city.
- Implement the Energy Action Plan, including promotion of the energy assessment kits available at the library and River Bend Nature Center.
- Energy Action Plan implementation
- Develop Adopt-a-drain program.
- Active Transportation
- Develop Recommendations regarding Parking Minimums
- Energy Efficiency Tool Library

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- Ordinances (Natural landscapes, noxious weeds, tall grasses, tree preservation, energy and air pollution, anti-idling, parking minimums, maximums, electric vehicle (EV) and bike parking bonuses, complete streets, zero-waste, wetlands, sustainable building)
- Awareness campaigns (composting, bee lawns, pollinator planting, trees, raingardens, PACE and solar, signs, tabling, articles)
- City-supported Actions (climate action/mitigation plan, annual tree sale, cost-share for residents [rain gardens, curb cuts, rain barrels, tree sale, tree planting, composting], ecological restorations of riverbanks and bluffs, funding sustainable activities, bee lawn at airport)
- Partner Supported Actions (bus stop construction with shop classes, bike bus including bike-to-school groups, solar installations)
- Grants (restoration, pollinator, awareness campaign, planning, climate mitigation, composting)

Discussion:

Topic List

Reviewing what was included in past annual workplans, suggestions for the 2026 Annual Workplan includes:

- Environmental review of projects and ordinances, including any Environmental Assessment Worksheets (EAW), Environmental Impact Statements (EIS), and environmental ordinances that come to the city.
- Plan implementation, including the Energy Action Plan, Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan, Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan, Surface Water Management Plan, Well Head Protection Plan, and Journey to 2040 Comprehensive Plans.
 1. Energy Action Plan
 - The Environmental Commission played an important role in developing the City's updated Energy Action Plan. Making more efficient use of resources, including energy, is considered a critical component of increasing sustainability and reducing the impacts of energy generation. Opportunities for Environmental Commission Engagement in the implementation of this plan include awareness-raising and outreach, researching policy and developing recommendations, and collaborating with other boards and commissions to consider incorporating energy efficiency. This work is ongoing, and Commissioners should select areas of focus from energy efficiency, renewable energy, transportation, and beneficial electrification.
 2. Cannon River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan

- Seek out stormwater retrofit projects and maintenance activities to improve water quality and volume reduction to downstream water bodies.

3. Climate Adaptation Plan

- Priorities include heat stress, extreme weather, air quality, flooding and stormwater, trees, green space, and agriculture, mental health, vector-borne disease, and surface water quality.
- Environmental Restoration and Pollinator Promotion

This has been a focus of the Environmental Commission, and individual members have been involved with other organizations to promote pollinator-friendly plantings. In addition to raising awareness among residents, the Commission should consider other policies and programs that can increase the implementation of pollinator-friendly practices throughout the city.

Other opportunities include presenting information and promoting funding programs like Lawns 2 Legumes at community events.

- Continue to work towards advancing in the Green Steps, and Gold Leaf Programs
- Develop Adopt-a-drain program

This project would require research of other programs and best practices, focusing on identifying effective promotion and implementation. Setting up a system for individuals to sign up would be fairly straightforward using the City's GIS Online platform. Questions for the commission to answer include:

1. What information to collect from participants?
2. How often to promote participation and what activities to promote? i.e. spring cleaning? Fall cleaning? Etc.
3. Can any incentives be developed to increase participation?
4. How to identify inactive adoptions?
5. Is a story map an appropriate element of this program?
See <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/de363ad80c234e46bce2b04b86aa9044> for an example.

Recommendation:

Attachments:



Environmental Commission Memorandum

TO: Environmental Commission
THROUGH: David Wanberg, Community & Economic Development Director
FROM: Adam King, Environmental and Water Resources Coordinator
MEETING DATE: February 23, 2026
SUBJECT: Interim Ordinance

Background:

King has drafted an Interim Ordinance recommendation resolution for review. The draft resolution covers the Environmental Commission's concerns of drinking water source, water usage, electricity use, noise, air pollution / greenhouse gas emissions

Recommendation:

Review the Interim Ordinance recommendation resolution. Bring forward any changes or additions to incorporate into the resolution.

Attachments:

1. ENV Resolution ENV2026-01 Interim Ordinance on Data Centers

CITY OF FARIBAULT ENVIRONMENTAL COMISSION

RESOLUTION #ENV2026-01

RECOMMENDATION TO ADOPT AN INTERIM ORDINANCE TO PROHIBIT THE DEVELOPMENT OF DATA CENTERS

WHEREAS, there has recently been interest from at least one developer for the placement, construction and operation of a data center within the City of Faribault, with additional data centers assumed to follow; and

WHEREAS, the City of Faribault uses the Prairie Du Chien and Jordan Aquifers as its source for industries, and drinking water for its approximately 25,000 residents; and

WHEREAS, the City of Faribault is limited to 10,584,000 Gallons Per Day (GPD) by its Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Water Appropriations Permit, with its Water Treatment Plant designed to operate at 7.7 Million GPD and able to operate at 10 Million GPD for short periods of time; and

WHEREAS, data center operations can:

- Draw between 250,000 and five million gallons of water per day; and
- Generate approximately the same amount of non-domestic wastewater as it draws; and
- Draw up to and over 14,000,000 kilowatt hours (kWh) of electricity per year; and
- Employ up to 1,600 people during construction and up to 200 people during operations; and

WHEREAS, buildings housing data centers are often 1,000,000 square feet in size, with some much larger; and

WHEREAS, exterior noise at data centers generated by equipment, cooling systems, fans, and diesel generators can result in some people experiencing headaches, additional stress, and sleep disturbances leading to potential anxiety, cognitive impairments, cardiovascular risks, and in extreme cases, tinnitus and hearing loss; and

WHEREAS, emissions caused by electricity generated primarily from fossil fuel and diesel generators can release significant amounts of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gasses into the atmosphere; and

WHEREAS, energy demand for data centers can range from 14,000,000 kWh / year to over 70,000,000 kWh /year putting strain on the energy grid and increasing energy costs; and

WHEREAS, concerns have been raised in communities with data centers regarding air, stormwater, noise pollution, and the expected lifespan of only 15-20 years; and

WHEREAS, the City of Faribault Environmental Commission hereby finds that the typical demands and cumulative potential effects of multiple data centers with respect to water resources, air quality, noise, and electricity constitute a threat to the health, safety, and welfare of the its residents such that the City Council should consider an interim ordinance prohibiting the permitting, building and associated development applications of new data centers until standards and environmental protections can be established; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FARIBAULT, that the Environmental Commission recommends the City of Faribault City Council adopt an interim ordinance prohibiting the development of new datacenters for one year to allow time for staff to research, develop, and incorporate design standards for datacenters regarding noise, greenhouse gas emissions, water, and energy efficiency; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FARIBAULT, that this recommendation shall be effective immediately upon its passage and without publication according to the Faribault City Charter.

Date Adopted: Monday, February 23, 2026

Faribault Environmental Commission

Teresa DeMars, Chair

ATTEST:

Adam King, Environmental and Water Resources Coordinator



Environmental Commission Memorandum

TO: Environmental Commission
THROUGH: David Wanberg, Community & Economic Development Director
FROM: Adam King, Environmental and Water Resources Coordinator
MEETING DATE: February 23, 2026
SUBJECT: Wyland Foundation National Mayor's Water Conservation Challenge 2026

Background:

The City of Faribault's Mayor has been invited to participate in the 2026 Wyland National Mayor's challenge for Water Conservation. This challenge will take place April 1-30, 2026. The challenge presented by the Wyland Foundation encourages people to take simple, measurable actions at home to protect water quality, reduce waste, and build greater resiliency in local water systems. The challenge is designed to bring people and communities together for a fun and educational competition to see which cities can be the most "water wise" and thousands of dollars in eco-friendly prizes. The challenge reminds residents and educates children that simple individual actions can add up to huge changes in protecting our environment.

Residents can participate by pledging to take conservation actions, such as repairing leaking faucets, pipes, and toilets, shorten shower times, using low-flow devices and turn off the tap, washing only full loads of laundry and dishes, power down to save electricity, waste less food, use reusable shopping bags, use refillable water bottles, don't use plastic straws, plant climate-appropriate species, turn off sprinklers when it rains, use sprinklers on minimum settings and before 8 am, sweep instead of hose, pick up pet waste, dispose of pharmaceuticals safely, walk bus or bike more often, recycle batteries and electronics, and recycle online at www.mywaterpledge.com.

Cities can participate by simply signing up at <https://wylandfoundation.org/mayors-challenge-to-protect-water-quality/>. Mayors or the appropriate sustainability, water, or city official can sign the city up to participate and are provided with a digital toolkit with digital assets to promote the program to city residents.

Cities can up for the challenge today and submit a statement of support later. A statement of support is also provided on the sign-up page.

Recommendation:

HONESTY ▪ RESPECT ▪ DEDICATED ▪ VISIONARY ▪ ACCOUNTABILITY

Staff recommends approving Resolution ENV2026-02 to participate in the 2026 Wyland National Mayors Challenge for Water Conservation by signing a letter of support and promoting participation in the program to residents, with a statement of support stating “the City of Faribault City Council and Mayor Thomas Spooner commit to efficient use of natural resources by supporting the mission of the Mayor’s Challenge for Water Conservation, a non-profit national community service program, and in so doing renew the commitment to sustainability for the City of Faribault and for future generations.”

Attachments:

1. ENV Resolution ENV2026-02 2026 Wyland Foundation National Mayors Water Conservation Challenge

CITY OF FARIBAULT ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

RESOLUTION #ENV2026-02

RECOMMENDATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE 2026 WYLAND NATIONAL MAYOR'S WATER CHALLENGE

WHEREAS, the Wyland Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that is dedicated to promoting, protecting, and preserving the world's ocean, waterways, and marine life; and

WHEREAS, the Wyland Foundation presents the annual Wyland National Mayor's Water Challenge that encourages people to take simple, measurable actions at home to protect water quality, reduce waste, and build greater resiliency in local water systems, designed to bring people and communities together for a fun and educational competition to see which cities can be the most "water wise"; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor of the City of Faribault has been invited by the Wyland Foundation to participate in the 2026 Wyland National Mayor's Water Challenge; and

WHEREAS, residents would participate by taking a pledge online to make conservation actions such as repairing leaking faucets, pipes, and toilets, shorten shower times, using low-flow devices and turn off the tap, washing only full loads of laundry and dishes, power down electronics to save electricity, waste less food, use reusable shopping bags, use refillable water bottles, don't use plastic straws, plant climate-appropriate species, turn off sprinklers when it rains, use sprinklers on minimum settings and before 8 am, sweep instead of hose, pick up pet waste, dispose of pharmaceuticals safely, walk bus or bike more often, recycle batteries and electronics, and recycle; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FARIBAULT, that the Environmental Commission recommends the City of Faribault City Council and Mayor Thomas Spooner participate in the 2026 Wyland National Mayor's Water Challenge; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FARIBAULT, that the Environmental Commission recommends

the City of Faribault City Council and Mayor Thomas Spooner commit to efficient use of natural resources by supporting the mission of the Mayor's Challenge for Water Conservation, a non-profit national community service program, and in so doing renew the commitment to sustainability for the City of Faribault and for future generations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FARIBAULT, that this recommendation shall be effective immediately upon its passage and without publication according to the Faribault City Charter.

Date Adopted: Monday, February 23, 2026

Faribault Environmental Commission

Teresa DeMars, Chair

ATTEST:

Adam King, Environmental and Water Resources Coordinator



Environmental Commission Memorandum

TO: Environmental Commission
THROUGH: David Wanberg, Community & Economic Development Director
FROM: Adam King, Environmental and Water Resources Coordinator
MEETING DATE: February 23, 2026
SUBJECT: Outreach Opportunities Update

Background:

Commissioner DeMars and Commissioner Thies attended the Faribault Winter Fest. Eight people signed up for an Xcel Home Energy Assessment / Energy Squad visit, and many lightbulbs were given away.

2026 events in Faribault that could be outreach opportunities.

- Faribault Heritage Days (June 11 – 13th 2026)
- Rice County Fair (July 22 – 26th 2026)
- Faribault Fall Festival (October 3rd 2026*)
- Faribault Winter Festival (December 6th 2026*)

*based on last years dates

Recommendation:

Attachments:



Environmental Commission Memorandum

TO: Environmental Commission
THROUGH: David Wanberg, Community & Economic Development Director
FROM: Adam King, Environmental and Water Resources Coordinator
MEETING DATE: February 23, 2026
SUBJECT: ReLeaf Grant Update

Background:

Adam King, Environmental and Water Resources Coordinator, has completed and submitted the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources ReLeaf Community Forestry Grant application package, estimating that 100 trees and stumps from low-income residential lots will be removed, and 200 new trees will be planted in their place with a total budget of \$484,000. The grant includes partnering with River Bend Nature Center on community education and outreach, and a gravel bed nursery.

The MN DNR has sorted and ranked the applications and informed the city of a grant award of \$389,000. The MN DNR reduced the number of new trees planted from 200 to 100 and reduced the budget of the gravel bed nursery from \$15,000 to \$7,500. King has adjusted the budget and grant application and has provided the requested additional information to the MN DNR.

The updated grant application, updated budget, and 3-year establishment plan are attached.

Recommendation:

Attachments:

1. 2025-releaf-application - City of Faribault REVISED 0126
2. 2025-ReLeaf Grant budget sheet - City of Faribault REVISED 0126
3. attachment-B-3year-tree-establishment-plan - City of Faribault 2025

ReLeaf Community Forestry Grants

2025 Application



Please refer to the Request for Applications (RFA) when completing this application.

Submit this form, along with required attachments, to ucf.dnr@state.mn.us by October 28, 2025.

Name of Organization	
Project Coordinator	
Project Coordinator Title	
Address (as found in SWIFT)	
City, State, Zip	
County	
Project Coordinator Email	
Project Coordinator Phone Number	
Grant Amount Requested	
Authorized Signer(s) Name(s) & Email(s) <i>Individual(s) from your organization with signing authority for contracts in the event of grant award.</i>	

If tree removal is incorporated into this project, please list estimated percentages of how wood waste is managed: (no score, taken into account throughout proposal)

- ___ Not Applicable/No Trees Removed
- ___ Durable Wood Products (ex. Timber, lumber, building materials, furniture, decorative wood products)
- ___ Soil Amendments (ex. Biochar, compost, mulch)
- ___ BioEnergy (ex. Combined heat & power, thermal energy, pelletizing, biogas, advanced biofuels)
- ___ Disposal (ex. Open burning, land disposal, landfilling)

Total % of wood waste being utilized ___/100

PROJECT PRIORITY

What percent of your project is dedicated to the Priority Areas? (3 points)

Please provide a percentage between 0-100% that reflects the proportion of eligible activities directed at Priority Areas.

_____ %

Please describe how you arrived at this percentage. (3 points)

In your response, explain which eligible activities occur in Priority Areas, how you calculated their share of the project, and describe any assumptions or data used (e.g., maps, population estimates, tree inventories, staff hours, financial allocations, etc.).

PROJECT APPLICATION

Project Overview and Need (30 points; 2600-character limit) Provide a summary of the project, why this funding is needed, what project work will not happen without these grant funds and expected outcomes. Include a description of project locations (citywide project, boulevards, specific parks, etc.). A high-scoring application will demonstrate a readiness to take on a project of the proposed scope and size, showcase significant need, and will prioritize the preservation and maintenance/increase of canopy cover.

Project Timeline (20 points; 3200-character limit) Describe the approximate project schedule showing intermediate steps and milestones for activities described in this application or required by the RFA. A high-scoring timeline will provide specific dates for all components of the project, be realistic, easy to comprehend, and will follow EAB best management practices.

Project Budget Explanation (10 points; 2600-character limit) Provide additional remarks to clarify the budget request. Provide an explanation of how you are funding portions of your project that are not eligible with grant dollars. A successful budget will provide specific dollar amounts for anticipated use, be financially realistic, and cost effective. Budget attachment will be correctly calculated. Projects that plant more trees than they remove will score higher.

Community Engagement and Impact (15 points; 2600-character limit) A high-ranking proposal will show planning and collaboration that clearly serves and includes residents within the Priority Area, and populations that define the Priority Area (low-income residents, persons with disabilities, less than high school education, limited English speaking, and low life expectancy). A high-scoring proposal will describe actionable items for these communities, how these communities will be engaged through the project, and how their input will be incorporated throughout the project.

Communication (10 points; 2600-character limit) Describe the methods you will use to conduct outreach to residents about this grant project. A high-scoring communication strategy will use multiple formats that have the potential to reach the public and will incorporate EAB-related messaging.

Key Personnel (15 points; 2600-character limit) List all certifications and degrees for staff or contractors involved in the project. Describe the duties internal staff will conduct, and any work that will be contracted out, or the partnerships you will leverage to complete tasks. Include key personnel and their experience with similar tasks. If you expect to contract work out, describe requirements you will have for contractors. A high-scoring application will have key personnel corresponding to each component of the project and will showcase that they have the expertise to conduct the work proposed.

PAST GRANT PERFORMANCE

This section will be weighted and scored separately from the project portion of your application. If your organization has been awarded a grant from the DNR Urban and Community Forestry (UCF) program, or you are unsure if your organization has been awarded an a grant, please reach out to ucf.dnr@state.mn.us to obtain your past Grant Closeout form, so that you may address it here in this section. There is no penalty for first-time applicants. If you have not had a grant with DNR UCF program and or the DNR UCF program does not have a Grant Closeout form on file, you may leave this section blank.

Past Grant Performance (5 points; 2600-character limit) If you have received funding from the DNR Urban and Community Forestry program in the past, please describe your past performance. Include the outcomes achieved, any challenges you experienced, and how you addressed them. If applicable, explain any missed deliverables, budget issues, or delays, and describe what you have learned or changed in response. If applicable, describe how you plan to continue demonstrating strong grant management practices. This response will be evaluated as part of your overall past performance score and will be conducted in relation to your last grant closeout, as conducted by your grant administrator.

2025 Community Tree Planting Grants
Attachment A. Budget Form

Directions: Complete this form in detail. Common eligible expenses are listed below; add rows as necessary. Be specific about expenses, making sure requested funds are eligible for reimbursement. A successful budget will be detailed, financially realistic, and cost effective. No match is required. This form has formulas; double check that totals are accurate. Direct questions about the budget form to the DNR Urban and Community Forestry Team at ucf.dnr@state.mn.us.

Organization Name:		City of Faribault		
Project Coordinator:		Adam King		
<u>Expense</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Hourly Rate/ Cost per Item</u>	<u>Number Hours or Items</u>	<u>Funds Requested</u>
1. Contractor costs (ex. labor, services, supplies, and equipment)	Licensed and insured contractor to remove dead and dying trees and stumps	\$2,000.00	100	200,000.00
2. Trees	Trees purchased following grant requirements (no noxious weeds / invasive terrestrial plants, no containerized trees larger than #20, Balled and Burlapped larger than 2.5" caliper, or bareroot larger than 2" caliper). Price includes installed tree by a MNDOT Certified Landscape Specialist with mulch and 2-year guarantee.	\$850.00	100	85,000.00
3. Planting supplies (ex. water bags, grow tubes, bark protection, compost, etc.)	Tree Planting Supplies - Tree Tubes	\$5.00	100	500.00
	Tree Planting Supplies - Watering Bags	\$20.00	100	2,000.00
4. Site preparation	Included in the cost of the tree			
5. Equipment purchases less than \$5,000 (no one tool can have a unit cost of \$5,000 or more even if that cost is split across grant and match funds)				
6. Staff or Consultant time	Staff Time - contracting / coordinating between landowners and contractors / bidding process / grant reporting	\$70.00	100	7,000.00
	Contract with River Bend Nature Center for multilingual education and outreach activities including tree-care education, home visits and community workshops	\$55.00	1455	80,000.00
7. Other: please describe	Education / Outreach - Mailings (printed materials, postage, digital campaigns)	\$2.33	3000	7,000.00
	Gravel Bed / Community Nursery			7,500.00
			Totals	\$ 389,000.00

3. Mulching Trees

Will you mulch your trees and if so, how will you maintain mulch?

4. Staking and Tying Trees

Explain if staking is necessary due to mowing, vandalism, or wind conditions, and describe plans for inspection and removal.

5. Checking Tree Health

The grantee will check trees every 6 – 12 months to identify and address problems. Describe inspection process and follow-up.

6. Tree Protection

Young trees in busy urban areas may be easily damaged by human activity, animals, and equipment. Describe how planted trees will be protected.

7. Pruning

Newly planted trees should need little pruning, if they were properly cared for in the nursery. In the first year after planting, remove only dead or broken branches. In later years, weakly attached limbs can be removed, and corrective pruning can be done if needed. Describe your pruning maintenance cycle.

8. Tree Warranty

Tree planting should include a warranty from the nursery for replacement (due to poor condition or mortality). The grantee should be prepared to fully replace all trees that are in poor condition or die prior to inspection at the end of the project grant agreement, unless loss was due to natural disaster. Describe your tree warranty or how trees will be replaced.



Environmental Commission Memorandum

TO: Environmental Commission
THROUGH: David Wanberg, Community & Economic Development Director
FROM: Adam King, Environmental and Water Resources Coordinator
MEETING DATE: February 23, 2026
SUBJECT: Clean Energy Resource Team (CERTs) Grant Update

Background:

Adam King, Environmental and Water Resources Coordinator, and Thomas Furman, Housing and Redevelopment Authority Executive Director, have completed and submitted the Clean Energy Resource Teams Grant application package. The grant would fund the expansion of the current video vignette series, providing practical education to residents in affordable housing programs on addressing energy efficiency and energy conservation practices, such as installing LED bulbs, setting and programming thermostats, installing window insulation kits, installing faucet aerators, and replacing shower heads with low-flow models. The total grant budget is \$10,000.

The City of Faribault was notified that the grant has been selected for funding in the amount of \$10,000 and will continue to on a grant agreement with the University of Minnesota.

The CERTs grant application is attached.

Recommendation:

Attachments:

1. 2025 CERTs Seed Grant Application - Faribault



2025 CERTs Seed Grant Application

To save your progress, click the "save as draft" button at the bottom of this form. Use the link provided to return to your application. Please note that uploaded files will not be saved in drafts.

Once you click "submit" you will no longer be able to edit your application.

If you have any questions about this application, feel free to contact CERTs at grants@cleanenergyresourceteams.org.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Primary Contact Email

tfurman@faribaultmn.gov




Name of Primary Contact Person

Thomas Furman

Primary Contact Title or Relationship to Organization

Housing and Redevelopment Director

Primary Contact Phone

 15073330375

Applicant Organization

City of Faribault

Organization's Street Address

208 1st Ave. N.W.

Organization's City

Faribault

Organization's Zip Code

55021

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Organization's Website

<https://www.ci.faribault.mn.us/>

Name of Alternate Contact Person

Adam King


Alternate Contact Title or Relationship to Organization

Environmental and Water Resources Coordinator

Alternate Contact Email

aking@faribaultmn.org

Alternate Contact Phone

 15072093552

Has your organization ever applied for a CERTs Seed Grant?

Yes

Has your organization ever received a CERTs Seed Grant?

Yes

I certify that I have read the Application Guidelines.

Yes, I have read the full Application Guidelines.

I understand payments are made on a reimbursement basis.

Yes, I understand payments are made on a reimbursement basis.

To which CERT Region are you applying?

Southeast

PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND WORK PLAN

Project Name

Visualizing Energy Savings Through Video Vignettes
2025 CERTs Seed Grant Application

What is your project location(s)?

City of Faribault

Project (County/ies)

Rice

Address of Project

208 1st Avenue Northwest, Faribault, MN, USA

Project Summary and Primary Objective

The City of Faribault's Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) plans to expand the current video vignette series which provides practical education to residents in affordable housing programs on how to care for and maintain their homes and apartments. Energy efficiency is one of the top priorities in Faribault's 2023 Energy Action Plan, with this grant directly addressing energy efficiency and conservation. This grant will allow the HRA to fund the next set of video vignettes focusing on energy efficiency and energy conservation related practices, including but not limited to installing LED bulbs, setting and programming thermostats, installing window insulation kits, installing faucet aerators, and replacing showerheads with low-flow models. The objective is to assist the community in reducing energy and water consumption, lowering energy costs for residents, and ensuring safe, well-maintained housing through short, accessible, and culturally relevant video instruction.

Project Goals

The key goal of the Visualizing Energy Savings Through Video Vignette series is to teach practical energy and water conservation measures to residents through visual, and multilingual resources. Through this project, household utility costs and energy burdens could be reduced for low-income families that make the energy efficiency changes seen in the video vignettes. This project will support efficiency and sustainability in the affordable housing program by encouraging behavioral changes and simple upgrades. The City of Faribault's HRA will create content that is accessible, repeatable, and able to be distributed across all City of Faribault HRA properties and be made available to all. The goal is to reach out and engage over 200 adults including residents, staff, and community partners, and at over 50 youth viewing the video vignettes and acting as outreach helpers. These video vignettes will assist with removing knowledge and language barriers by providing education in video vignette form, making it easier to understand than written instructions, particularly for the targeted immigrant or limited-English households.

Project Activities

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The City of Faribault HRA will produce 5–7 short video vignettes demonstrating energy and water conservation measures, including using a programmable thermostat, installing LED bulbs, placing window insulation film on windows, installing and using sink faucet aerators, replacing low-flow showerheads, etc. To assist with breaking down knowledge and language barriers, these video vignettes will be translated and/or subtitled into Somali and Spanish in order to reach as many immigrant and multilingual populations as possible. The video vignettes will be shared with City of Faribault HRA residents through onboarding, resident orientations, and community workshops. Outcomes will be tracked by monitoring utility usage trends where possible and through resident feedback surveys, with success measured by the number of residents reached, video completion rates, and reported adoption of conservation practices.

Estimated Project Work Plan/Timeline

- Jan–Feb 2026: Video vignette script development, work on agreement with a communications contractor and production partner, and coordinate with CERTs staff (Lead: HRA Executive Director, Project Team).
- Mar–Jun 2026: Filming and editing energy conservation video vignettes with production partner (Lead: Communications Contractor).
- Jul–Sep 2026: Translation, subtitling, and distribution to HRA residents, staff and partners (Lead: HRA Staff).
- Oct–Dec 2026: Resident engagement, surveys, and tracking adoption of practices (Lead: HRA Staff with assistance from CERTs team).
- Jan 2027: Final review and reporting (Lead: HRA Executive Director).

Why does this project matter to your community?

We are focusing our efforts on residents in affordable housing as they often face higher burdens related to energy costs. Many in affordable housing are new immigrants or from historically underserved populations including people of color who may not have prior experience with U.S. housing systems or energy efficiency and conservation practices. These video vignettes will provide practical, and culturally relevant education to assist residents in reducing energy costs, increase safety, and strengthen stewardship of their homes. By making energy conservation visible and accessible, this project will assist with knocking down knowledge and language barriers related to energy efficiency while building pride in housing, leading to reduced long-term energy costs for both residents and the City of Faribault HRA.

Serving Underserved Populations

The Faribault HRA serves diverse, largely immigrant, and low-income communities, many of whom face knowledge and language barriers and cost of energy burdens. This project directly addresses these needs by creating video-based resources that can be understood across cultures and languages including Somali and Spanish, while reducing the reliance on written materials. It empowers residents historically underserved and excluded from energy efficiency decisions to take control of their utility usage and benefit from overall lower energy bills.

Project Partners

- Faribault HRA – Lead applicant, production coordination, resident distribution.
- CERTs – Content support and technical guidance on conservation practices.
- Hired Local Production Partner – Filming and editing of video content.
- Community Action Center / Partner Organizations – Outreach and feedback loops with immigrant and low-income families.

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Estimated number of adults (18 years and older) involved in the project:

200

Estimated number of youth (less than 18 years old) involved:

50

PROJECT FUNDING

How will you use CERTs funds?

- Video production (filming, editing, subtitling) – \$5,500
- Translation/interpretation services – \$3,000
- Outreach/printing/distribution materials – \$1,500

Additional Information

The City of Faribault HRA has piloted an initial video vignette series that includes bathroom cleaning, kitchen care, and appliance safety. This has been a proven model for delivering content effectively. This CERTs grant will allow for the expansion of the video vignette series to integrate energy efficiency and conservation into this platform, creating a long-lasting set of tools for resident engagement in energy efficiency, conservation, and sustainability.

Total funding requested from CERTs:

\$10,000